

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 227290

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:PMFOLAN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD ONLY

CINCEUR FOR POLAD ONLY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 227290

EXDIS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BERLIN 1859 ACTION BONN INFO SECSTATE

OCT 15, 1974

QUOTE S E C R E T BERLIN 1859

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS TO CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD ONLY AND CINCEUR FOR
POLAD ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB. GE

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN EAST BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 1853

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, MISSION AND USCOB ARE PRETTY
WELL CONVINCED THAT THE TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL DETAINED
BY GDR IN EAST BERLIN NIGHT OF OCTOBER 14 WERE INNOCENT
OF ANY ILLICIT ACTIVITY, INCLUDING EXFILTRATION. THERE
IS STRONG SUSPICION, HOWEVER, AS THERE WAS IN MEDLEY
CASE (BERLIN 1687 ET AL), THAT TRAP HAD BEEN LAID BY GDR
TO DOCUMENT CASE OF INVOLVEMENT OF US FORCES IN

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PAGE 02 STATE 227290

EXFILTRATION ACTIVITY. AFTER SERGEANT JONES'S CAR

WAS MOVED DOWN STREET WHERE HE AND PRIVATE LOWRY WERE
DETAINED, FOR EXAMPLE, SERGEANT JONES OBSERVED FLASHES
WHICH HE THOUGHT INDICATED PHOTOGRAPHS BEING TAKEN.
WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO FIND THESE DELIVERED TO
US ONE DAY SHOWING AN EAST GERMAN IN THEIR CAR.
ULTIMATE GDR PURPOSE, OF COURSE, MIGHT HAVE BROAD
IMPLICATIONS FOR ALLIED ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN.

2. IN ORDER TO CUT GROUND OUT FROM UNDER SUCH AN
EFFORT WE RECOMMEND THAT MISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO
LEAK STORY OF INCIDENT TO COOPERATIVE MEMBER OF FOURTH
ESTABLISHMENT, NOTING THAT, UNLIKE MEDLEY INCIDENT,
WHERE PUNISHMENT METED OUT FOLLOWING U.S. INVESTIGA-
TION, THERE WAS NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER OF WRONG-
DOING IN LATEST INCIDENT, LEADING ONE TO SUSPECT
ULTERIOR MOTIVE ON PART OF GDR.

3. IN INTERIM WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS SOVIET
EMBASSY FOR RESPONSE TO OUR OCTOBER 15 DEMARCHE,
MOVING UP TO POLAD LEVEL IF NO SATISFACTORY ANSWER
RECEIVED BY COB OCTOBER 16.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT VIEWS
RE PARA 2.

5. USCOB CONCURS. SELIGMANN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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